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**Subject:** Cross-Cutting Issues News for November 16, 2016



## Cross-Cutting Issues

### News for November 16, 2016

## Bloomberg BNA Daily Environment Report™

### NEWS

#### *Climate Change*

#### Fortune 500 Voices Give Glimpse of Climate Future Under Trump

The UN climate summit in Morocco got an early glimpse of who just might be doing the heavy lifting on U.S. climate action if President-elect Donald Trump makes good on his pledge to "cancel" the Paris

climate pact—large U.S. companies...

### *Climate Policy*

#### Tax Credit Could Be Worth Billions for Southern's Kemper Project

The Kemper coal power plant being built in Mississippi has already received \$406 million from the U.S. government and could gain another \$695 million in benefits if Congress expands carbon-capture tax credits that one critic calls "polluter..."

### *Elections*

#### No 'Short Cut' Seen for Trump Environmental Rollback

There is no "short cut" for President-elect Donald Trump to roll back environmental regulations but the incoming administration still could target Obama era rules, a former Justice Department official said Nov. 15....

### *International Climate*

#### Ban Ki-Moon Asks Countries to Strengthen Climate Pledges

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Nov. 15 urged countries to increase the strength of their pledges to fight climate change....

### *International Climate*

#### France Vows to Lead in Pushing Trump to Spare Paris Climate Deal

The president of France took direct aim Nov. 15 at Donald Trump's plan to withdraw the U.S. from a global climate pact, calling on him to abandon plans to nullify a deal only made possible because of U.S. leadership under President Barack...

### *International Climate*

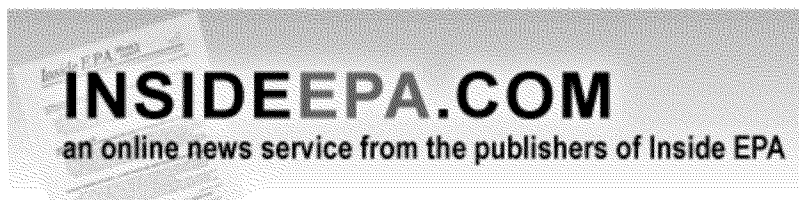
#### Some Republicans See Targeting UN Climate Treaty as Extreme

The prospect of President-elect Donald Trump going beyond his campaign promise to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate pact to actually targeting the Senate-ratified UN deal that made it possible may be a step too far—even for some...

## *Oil & Gas*

### **House Democrats Call for Permanent Halt at Dakota Access**

The Army Corps of Engineers' decision to continue consultations with local tribal leaders over the Dakota Access Pipeline isn't placating a group of House Democrats. ...



Inside EPA's **Clean Air Report**, 11/17/2016

<http://insideepa.com/newsletters/clean-air-report>

## **Latest News**

### **Fearing Trump, Appliance Sector Seeks To Retain 'Reasonable' Climate Rules**

Domestic refrigeration manufacturers are seeking to maintain a host of Obama administration measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from their products, fearing that the incoming administration will block or roll back “reasonable” policies that the industry believes offer regulatory certainty and preserve commercial opportunities.

### **Coal Firms Attack EPA's Two-Year SAB Plan For 'Jobs' Review Of Air Rules**

Coal companies are attacking EPA's plan to conduct a two-year Science Advisory Board (SAB) consultation before developing a firm plan for meeting a court mandate to review the employment impacts of the agency's air and climate rules, saying EPA is trying to dodge the ruling and urging the court to block new air rules until it complies.

## **News Briefs**

### **Climate Stance Key For Trump's EPA Nominee, Environmentalists Say**

“It would be very difficult to find someone capable of running EPA who does not believe there is a strong link between [greenhouse gas] pollution and climate change,” one environmentalist says.

### **EPA Quietly Finalizes New GHG Reporting Rule**

EPA has quietly finalized a rule strengthening greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting requirements for the oil and gas industry and is poised to finalize a second rule in the coming days that seeks to streamline implementation and improve data collection for nearly every industrial sector subject to the reporting requirements.

### **White House Threatens Veto Of Bill Expanding CRA Review**

The White House is threatening to veto a pending House bill that would expand Congress' Congressional Review Act (CRA) power to undo EPA and other agency rules by allowing legislators to block "midnight rules" issued in the last year of a president's term, with the administration saying the bill would undermine regulatory certainty.

# Greenwire

## **METHANE**

### **Interior finalizes rule, gets hit with industry lawsuit**

Scott Streater, E&E News reporter

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016



An oil and gas rig on public land in northwestern New Mexico. The administration is moving to curb methane waste from such operations. Photo by Ellen M. Gilmer.

*This story was updated at 2 p.m. EST.*

The Interior Department finalized a rule today designed to slash the volume of natural gas that's vented and flared each year into the atmosphere from roughly 100,000 wells on federal and tribal lands.

The Methane and Waste Prevention Rule's goal is twofold: Reduce releases of methane, a greenhouse

gas that's more than 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide, and ensure that taxpayers get a fair return on the use of federal lands by capturing flared gas that is not subjected to royalty payments.

Interior says the new rule — which replaces 30-year-old regulations — is projected to cut methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by as much as 35 percent.

The rule is fiercely opposed by the oil and gas industry and congressional Republicans. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's announcement of the final rule this morning was quickly followed by an industry lawsuit.

The Western Energy Alliance and the Independent Petroleum Association of America filed the suit in U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming, calling the regulation "a vast overreach" of Interior's regulatory authority.

Interior's Bureau of Land Management, which worked on the rule for five years, says reducing the flaring, venting and leaking of methane from federally managed oil and gas wells would save society up to \$188 million annually by allowing more natural gas to be sold and preventing the escape of methane and other pollutants (*Greenwire*, Jan. 22).

"This rule to prevent waste of our nation's natural gas supplies is good government, plain and simple," Jewell said in a statement.

"We are proving that we can cut harmful methane emissions that contribute to climate change, while putting in place standards that make good economic sense for the nation," she added. "Not only will we save more natural gas to power our nation, but we will modernize decades-old standards to keep pace with industry and to ensure a fair return to the American taxpayers for use of a valuable resource that belongs to all of us."

But beyond the legal challenge, the rule's future is very much in doubt after President-elect Donald Trump's election last week. The Republican has made it clear that his administration will reduce regulation and expand oil and natural gas drilling on federal lands.

Trump will almost certainly attempt to roll back the rule. But outright overturning BLM's final methane regulation would require going through the entire rulemaking process again and is no simple task, said Fred Cheever, an environmental law professor at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.

Under the Administrative Procedure Act, an incoming administration needs to provide reasons or evidence that circumstances have changed since the rule was created or show that the reasoning behind the rule was otherwise flawed.

"If I were tasked by a new Trump secretary of the Interior to come up with a justification for pulling back what is clearly a protective action, I would be hard-pressed," Cheever said.

Trump may also work with members of the Republican majorities in the House and Senate to strip funding for the rule, observers say.

And Trump might work to clear a backlog of right-of-way applications to build pipelines and other infrastructure that the industry says would allow drilling operations to capture excess gas and pipe it to market instead of venting it into the air.

This has been a major sticking point for Republican congressional leaders, who accuse the Obama administration of giving the industry little choice but to vent and flare gas into the atmosphere.

"This methane rule duplicates state regulations already in place, expands bureaucracy, drives up costs

and kills jobs in the process," said Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), who chairs the Congressional Western Caucus. "The BLM should be streamlining their permitting process for pipeline construction to improve the collection of this valuable resource and generate as many royalties for the taxpayer as possible rather than trying to stick a cork in production."

"Even though the administration may not be able to make the rule go away, the administration is definitely in a position to simply not enforce the rule," Cheever added.

Kathleen Sgamma, vice president of government and public affairs for the Denver-based Western Energy Alliance, vowed industry would "seek ways to overturn BLM's vast overreach of legal authority."

"BLM lacks statutory authority for the creation of an air quality regulatory program, which has resided with EPA and the states since the 1970s," she said after her group filed the lawsuit with IPAA.

"This is an 11th hour shot by an administration that doesn't fully understand how its rules impact our businesses," Dan Naatz, senior vice president of government relations and political affairs at IPAA, said in a statement. "The continued regulatory onslaught on American producers calls into question the president's commitment to the laws requiring mineral production on federal lands or whether the misguided crusade to 'Keep It in the Ground' has overtaken this administration."

## **Critical to Obama's climate plan**

Finalizing the methane rule was a major priority of the Obama administration. Reducing venting, flaring and leaking of methane is a major component of President Obama's 2013 Climate Action Plan.

U.S. EPA earlier this year released revised estimates of methane emissions from the oil and gas sector, concluding that natural gas systems were the country's largest source of methane in 2014, accounting for a third of total emissions (*E&ENews PM*, April 15).

And the Government Accountability Office last summer issued a report criticizing BLM for failing to have consistent policies in place to regulate the venting and flaring of natural gas at thousands of oil and natural gas wells, sometimes allowing industry to incorrectly burn off the gas without paying royalties (*E&ENews PM*, July 21).

"With better planning and today's affordable technology, we can cut waste in half," BLM Director Neil Kornze said in a statement. "This common-sense rule will save enough gas to supply every household in the cities of Dallas and Salt Lake City combined — every year."

The rule requires operators to use off-the-shelf technologies to reduce flaring, which happens when operators burn off excess gas.

According to BLM, flaring doubled from 2009 to 2013, driven in large part by oil wells in the Dakotas and New Mexico, where there are not yet adequate pipelines to capture associated gas.

It also sets gradually diminishing caps on the amount of gas that may be flared from wells, beginning with a limit of 7,200 mcf, or thousand cubic feet, per well per month for the first year.

That limit would be halved in the second year and halved again in the third year. Operators could comply by installing gas-capture infrastructure such as gathering lines, by compressing the gas or stripping out the natural gas liquids and trucking it off site, or by temporarily slowing production until capture infrastructure can be installed.

The rule also requires companies to prepare a "waste minimization plan" that evaluates opportunities for

gas capture before being approved to drill a well. The plan would need to be shared with midstream gas capture companies to promote timely pipeline development, though the minimization plan would not be legally binding.

In addition, the rule requires companies to perform periodic inspections for methane leaks using infrared cameras or portable analyzers assisted by audio, visual and olfactory inspection.

Janice Schneider, Interior assistant secretary of land and minerals management, said the final rule is supported by government studies and was developed with numerous stakeholder input.

"The result is an effective rule that not only gets more of our nation's natural gas into pipelines but also reduces pollution and cuts greenhouse gas emissions," Schneider said in a statement.

## **Cheers and jeers**

The finalization of the rule drew mixed reviews.

As expected, the oil and gas industry — which has argued that EPA, not BLM, should regulate emissions of methane — was particularly upset.

The contention that BLM is overstepping its authority forms the basis of the lawsuit filed by the Western Energy Alliance and IPAA.

"BLM is assuming Clean Air Act authority that only EPA and the states have, and as a consequence we are filing a lawsuit today," said Sgamma, whose Western Energy Alliance represents more than 450 independent oil and gas companies that produce a significant amount of the nation's onshore oil and gas.

Sgamma also took issue with statements in an Interior press release today that says the American public has not benefited from the full potential of natural gas development due to venting, flaring and leaks "of significant quantities of gas during the production process."

"I'm also disappointed to see Interior repeating falsehoods surrounding methane emissions from the oil and natural gas industry," she said. "Not only has our industry reduced emissions by 21 percent since 1990, but a recent [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] study also documents how emissions are falling. That's all happening without these and other federal regulations."

In addition to industry, House Republicans, particularly, have been highly critical of the rule at public hearings on it in last spring.

House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop of Utah and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California joined 55 other Republicans in July accusing BLM of exceeding its legal authority with the rule and calling on Jewell to withdraw it ([\*Greenwire\*](#), July 28).

But conservation groups praised the new rule.

"These guidelines will reduce the unnecessary and capricious waste of American energy," said Josh Mantell, the energy and climate campaign manager for the Wilderness Society. "Public resources must be used for the public good, and this rule will put in place standards to ensure taxpayers are seeing their fair share."

Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, echoed Mantell.

"Natural gas is a valuable American resource, but when wasted into the air it causes dangerous pollution," Krupp said in a statement. "Reducing the amount of gas that oil and gas operators release will conserve an important domestic resource, improve air quality, lower asthma attacks, and slow climate change."

Mantell said the Wilderness Society and other conservation groups will be watching how the Trump administration handles implementation of the new rule.

"The Obama administration has been working diligently to ensure that when energy development does occur it is done safely, responsibly and in the right places — with consideration of the importance our public lands hold for the American people, as well as their impact on the climate. This rule is an important component of the administration's substantial legacy in modernizing development on federal lands," he said.

"We look forward to helping make sure the rule is fully implemented and enforced to have the maximum positive effects for our shared lands and resources."

*Reporter Brittany Patterson contributed.*

## WHITE HOUSE

### Trump kicking out the 'czars'?

Robin Bravender, E&E News reporter

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016



The new administration may scrap so-called czar positions, which have authority across agencies and offices. Photo by Daniel Schwen, courtesy of [Wikimedia](#).

As the Trump transition team plans to overhaul the government, they're considering axing White House policy "czar" positions.



President Obama came under heavy criticism early in his term for appointing a number of top policy advisers in the White House, including an energy czar post filled first by Carol Browner, a green jobs czar post filled by Van Jones and a car czar focused on the auto bailout. Top Obama officials wanted to coordinate those policies out of the White House, but many outsiders expressed concerns about transparency and accountability, given that those officials weren't confirmed by the Senate, as required for Cabinet secretaries.

## CONTINUING COVERAGE



E&E News' ongoing coverage of the new administration and the changes taking place on Capitol Hill. [Click here](#) to view the continuing coverage.

But the Trump team might opt to do away with those jobs entirely.

"They're going to look at the structure in general," said an adviser to the transition. "They're questioning all this stuff and whether it works for President-elect Trump."

Generally, "there's been a lot of criticism just from a governance perspective on the whole czar piece," that person said. There are questions about "whether or not it causes more confusion than organization" and "whether or not it sort of undermines the authority of existing congressionally mandated agencies or authorities."

These discussions are playing out as the Trump transition team is considering broad reforms throughout government.

For example, Trump has suggested making major revamps at U.S. EPA. He suggested abolishing it entirely on the campaign trail, although he's not expected to go that far. Still, his team could make sweeping organizational changes. The Republican Party's platform this year called for turning the agency into a bipartisan commission and handing much of its regulatory power back to state agencies ([Greenwire](#), July 19).

## POLITICS

### Journalists, greens fear information crackdown

[Robin Bravender](#), E&E News reporter

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016



Republican Donald Trump speaks to multiple media outlets at Trump Tower in New York City last year. Photo by Michael Vadon, courtesy of Flickr.

Journalists and advocates are fearful that the incoming Trump administration will clamp down on the public's access to environmental information.

On the campaign trail, Donald Trump continually railed against what he perceived as a widespread media bias against him. He revoked press credentials for *The Washington Post*, calling the outlet "phony and dishonest," and banned several other media organizations from his campaign events. He later invited those outlets to return to his events, but the move sparked an outcry from media groups and transparency advocates. The president-elect took flak again last week for refusing to let journalists cover his White House meeting with President Obama, a departure from standard practice.

Trump's sometimes open disdain for the media has journalists, environmentalists and former government officials fretting that his team might restrict press access to top energy and environmental officials, stifle dissenting opinions of scientists and career staffers at agencies like U.S. EPA, and limit information about environmental policy that's available publicly.

"I think that there's certainly reason for concern," said Bobby Magill, president of the Society of Environmental Journalists and senior science writer at *Climate Central*. Trump "just seems to have some measure of hostility towards transparency into his own activities and into his own campaign, to some degree."

Magill and others stress that it's too soon to tell how the Trump administration will interact with the press, both from the White House and extending more broadly into agencies with environmental portfolios, like EPA and the Energy and Interior departments.

But they're warning that early indicators are troubling, given that government officials control a vast amount of information that the press plays a role in disseminating to the public.

"We know that the government provides reams of scientific data and other information that the public relies on," Magill said, including DOE and EPA data about greenhouse gas emissions, weather data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and energy consumption information from the U.S.

Energy Information Administration. He said he's heard concerns from his members.

"These things are critical to our understanding and the public's understanding of environmental issues that affect all of us."

Some outside observers have been complaining for years about access to information at EPA and other agencies, and what they perceive as unnecessary interference with agency scientists' ability to speak freely to the media. Journalism groups and transparency advocates who were optimistic at the start of the Obama administration were left disappointed by what they viewed as a heavy-handed approach by political staff to control messaging out of federal agencies.

SEJ accused the Obama administration in 2013 of taking "secrecy to a new level by failing to respond to even many routine inquiries by the news media about what this important agency is doing in regard to human health and protecting the environment."

Under the Obama administration, "it's been challenging to have access to government scientists," Magill said.

Patrick Boyle — who worked in the press shop in EPA's Region 3 office in Philadelphia during the Clinton, George W. Bush and Obama administrations — said environmental reporters who dealt with the past two administrations know "just how jealously the people in the White House guard any information that has a message attached to it," including environmental policies.

"I'm not sure that there's any significant change coming," said Boyle, who retired from EPA in 2010.

Tom Reynolds, who was EPA's top communications official and worked in communications at DOE and the White House during the Obama administration, is predicting some big changes under Trump.

During the past eight years, "from the president on down, we worked very hard to provide transparency and access to both the public and the media when it came to policy decisions," he said.

Reynolds, who left the administration earlier this year, is expecting a "stark contrast" between Obama and Trump when it comes to transparency. "If history is any indicator, I do not expect a transparent open-door policy when it comes to working with the press and the media," Reynolds said of the incoming Trump administration. "But I would love to be proven wrong."

Given the Trump administration's pledges to unravel much of the environmental policies federal employees have worked on over the past eight years, many experts are expecting conflicts between agency staffers and their new political bosses.

"The career employees that show up for work every day at EPA strongly believe in the mission that's at the heart of EPA," Reynolds said. "It's a science agency based on protecting public health, and that's clean air and clean water. That runs very counter to the philosophy that the new administration is going to bring. ... That tension is going to be problematic" and could demonstrate itself in a lack of access "between the press and the scientists and the researchers who are the lifeblood of the agency."

## **Leaky agencies?**

If there's a crackdown on information coming out of environmental agencies, some observers predict more federal workers will be looking to speak out without permission.

"There will definitely be more leaking," said Frank O'Donnell, president of Clean Air Watch and a longtime environmental advocate. He noted that has happened when federal staffers have disagreed with

administrations' environmental policies dating back to the Reagan administration.

"There were early plans that the people within the Reagan White House had made to attempt to obliterate things like the Clean Air Act," O'Donnell said. "Word of that did leak out, and they backpedaled once that happened."

One important difference now, O'Donnell said, is that "an awful lot of veteran professional people at an agency like the EPA have retired." He said it will be interesting to watch how a younger generation handles an administration that "steps in the way of what they thought was an unfettered path to issue new regulations."

Boyle doesn't expect to see many EPA staffers leaking information to the press.

"EPA scientists, bless their hearts, have been gagged for decades. They know better than to go out and talk about environmental policies. That's not their purview," he said. "What the government chooses to do about it once these people give them the facts remains to be seen."

One possible change under a Trump administration, O'Donnell said, is that agencies could cease leaking information to major news outlets ahead of big announcements.

Historically, when an agency like EPA plans to roll out a big announcement, "it's leaked to *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post* the day before," he said. "I think we may see less of that during a Trump administration."

Some of the big traditional media outlets may be "sidelined a bit," O'Donnell said. "The communication process may be slightly more democratic."

Even those who are wary about the incoming Trump administration's press policies say they're waiting to see exactly what happens when the new team comes in Jan. 20.

"We can sit here and we can speculate and prognosticate and all that," said Magill. "People have concerns, but we don't have any facts right now."

One EPA employee said, "Unless I'm given a real reason to worry, I'm not going to. Environmental laws that we have here aren't going to go anywhere, I'm fully confident of that."

That person said agency staffers intend to take things "one day at a time, just like we did last administration."

The Trump transition team did not respond to a request for comment.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Can Trump undo late Obama protections?

[Emily Yehle](#) and [Corbin Hiar](#), E&E News reporters

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

*Correction appended.*

With just two months left until President-elect Donald Trump wields executive power, environmentalists are urging the Obama administration to cement protections for public lands and waters.

The latest development: Tom Steyer has joined in the call for President Obama to permanently ban new drilling in Arctic and Atlantic waters.

"The Trump administration has the potential to do serious damage to our climate — but in the last few months of his presidency, President Obama can take concrete steps to secure his environmental legacy," said Steyer, the billionaire climate activist who is president of NextGen Climate. "We will continue to support bold action by President Obama to fight for our families, and we will keep pushing back against Trump's dark vision and dangerous plans for our country."

Steyer's support raises the profile of what once seemed like a long-shot campaign from environmental groups.

Those groups have ramped up their efforts, placing a full-page ad in *The Washington Post* and planning more for the coming weeks. A delegation from the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast — a group that works with Oceana — also met with Interior and White House officials yesterday to urge permanent protection.

They want Obama to use an obscure provision of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), asserting that it will be more permanent than the Interior Department's upcoming five-year oil and gas leasing program. Trump can simply start over on the five-year plan if he wants more leasing, but the OCSLA has a theoretical sticking power akin to the Antiquities Act ([\*Greenwire\*](#), Sept. 27).

But will either law actually stop Trump from ignoring such protections and forging ahead regardless?

Obama has expanded or created 28 national monuments under the Antiquities Act, and environmental groups expect him to create a handful more before he leaves office. Some could be more controversial than others; a proposal to protect the Bears Ears region of Utah, for example, has attracted strong opposition from House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) and Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah).

But until now, such designations have come with the assumption of permanence.

No president "has ever undone a national monument, ever," said Don Barry, who formerly worked at Defenders of Wildlife and was a Clinton-era Interior Department official.

But that could change, he warned.

"Trump is such an unknown, and at times reckless, that you have no idea whether he would consider doing that," Barry said.

Neither the Antiquities Act nor OCSLA gives presidents the explicit authority to undo protections put in place by their predecessors. Congress has done away with some monuments, but not many. And only three presidents have used OCSLA to protect waters from drilling: Eisenhower, Nixon and Obama. All were for limited areas; Obama set aside Bristol Bay in 2014 "without specific expiration."

Since no president has tried to undo monuments or lease withdrawals, the laws are untested.

Niel Lawrence, an attorney who is the Natural Resources Defense Council's Alaska director, told E&E News earlier this year that he believed the "better legal view" is that an OCSLA permanent withdrawal cannot be undone.

As for the Antiquities Act, a report from the Congressional Research Service found that there "have been no court cases deciding the issue of the authority of the President to abolish a national monument."

But a 1938 legal opinion from the U.S. attorney general, which dealt with the proposed abolishment of a national monument, found that "if public lands are reserved by the President for a particular purpose under express authority of an act of Congress, the President is thereafter without authority to abolish such reservation."

Elise Daniel, a spokeswoman for the House Natural Resources Committee, said in an email that though the Antiquities Act doesn't say that presidents can "un-proclaim" monuments, proclamations could be amended "both in terms of area and uses."

"At the end of the day, the president has total discretion here," she said. "Ultimately, revoking a monument designation does nothing to rein in or prevent future abuse of the Antiquities Act that ignore public input, which is the avenue the President has chosen to designate many national monuments in the first place."

**Correction:** An earlier version of this story misspelled the name of House Natural Resources Committee spokeswoman Elise Daniel.

## TRANSITION

### DOE, EPA wait for Trump's team

Kevin Bogardus and Hannah Northey, E&E News reporters

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Energy and environmental agencies are gearing up for a massive power shift between the Obama and Trump administrations.

In an email sent to U.S. EPA staff Thursday and obtained by E&E News, Chief of Staff Matt Fritz said EPA has been preparing for months to ensure a "smooth, seamless and efficient" transition as it gets ready for the imminent arrival of President-elect Donald Trump's transition team.

## CONTINUING COVERAGE

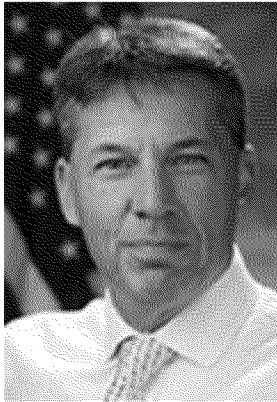


E&E News' ongoing coverage of the new administration and the changes taking place on Capitol Hill. [Click here](#) to view the continuing coverage.

"We expect members of President-elect Trump's EPA Landing Team will arrive soon to begin preparing for the new administration," Fritz wrote. "From now until the inauguration, the EPA Landing Team will be reviewing briefing materials and meeting with EPA senior officials to better understand the agency and its pressing issues."

Fritz said an MOU, or a memorandum of understanding, has been signed that governs access to employees and facilities with Trump's team. Under the agreement's terms, any requests for information from Trump's transition team should be directed to Shannon Kenny, EPA's principal deputy associate administrator for the Office of Policy and its designated transition director.

"Finally, as we go through this transition, it is important that we continue to work together and support one another," Fritz said.



U.S. EPA Chief of Staff Matt Fritz. Photo courtesy of U.S. EPA.

"Thank you to the many people across the agency who have helped prepare for the transition," he said. "Because of your efforts, we are well-positioned to meet the President's charge so the new administration is ready to govern on day one."

But it appears the transition effort for Trump has yet to take off, at least within the agencies themselves.

When asked whether Trump's transition team had arrived at EPA, an agency spokeswoman referred questions to Trump's transition team and shared with E&E News an [article](#) in *The New York Times* that describes the transition process as "frozen."

The article notes that Vice President-elect Mike Pence has yet to sign the transition MOU with the Obama administration, stalling the process. Pence is the new leader of Trump's transition team after replacing New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) last week. Christie had completed the necessary paperwork on Election Day to begin the transition, while Pence has not.

"We look forward to completing that work so that we can provide the necessary access to personnel and resources to get the president-elect's team up to speed and deliver on President Obama's directive for a smooth transition," Brandi Hoffine, a White House spokeswoman, told the *Times*.

Trump's transition team did not respond to messages asking for comment for this story.



A photo obtained by E&E News shows a welcome sign for President-elect Donald Trump's transition team at the Energy Department, who have yet to arrive. Photo by transition effort source.

Other agencies are also waiting to help with the transition. When asked whether Trump's transition team had arrived at the Energy Department, a DOE spokeswoman also directed E&E News to the *Times* article, saying it "seems to detail the current situation."

A source involved in the transition effort said team members haven't yet arrived at DOE, and timing for when that would occur is unclear.

Last week, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz sent an agencywide email obtained by E&E News, in which he thanked staffers for their hard work and outlined the transition process.

"Every four years, the American people elect a President in keeping with our democratic traditions," Moniz wrote. "We are now embarked on a 72 day transition period, during which time we have the dual responsibilities of continuing our work on President Obama's priorities and of professionally preparing the way for a smooth start by the fourteenth Secretary of Energy and his or her team."

Moniz also doubled down on the importance of the coming weeks before a Trump administration takes over to advance clean energy and protect the environment.

"Every day counts for advancing our clean energy, science, nuclear security, and environmental missions, and I anticipate that we will accomplish much over the next ten weeks," Moniz wrote, "just as your excellent work has done over the last years and as the Department's new leadership will appreciate in the years ahead."

Trump transition officials are now expected to land in domestically focused federal agencies — like EPA, the Interior Department and DOE — next week, according to a source familiar with the transition process.

Transition staff can't enter government agencies until they secure the proper clearance, a process that is ongoing. Those lists are expected to be made public before the teams enter agencies to begin interviewing government officials.



Reporter Robin Bravender contributed.

## LNG

### Republicans say exports will buoy Trump in Russia talks

Hannah Northey, E&E News reporter

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Opening the gates to U.S. exports of liquefied natural gas will give President-elect Donald Trump leverage in his negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin and other international leaders, congressional Republicans said today.

Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) told a gathering of European ambassadors and industry insiders at a Capitol Hill gathering that the United States must cast off burdensome regulations to expand oil and gas production and take its place as an energy superpower.

"A lot of times you can get more done with a barrel of oil, energy, than you can with the barrel of a gun," Barrasso told the nonprofit LNG Allies gathering at the Capitol Hill Club. "Russia doesn't spend a lot of time worrying about environmental impact statements for the EPA, they use energy as a source of power. We need to do the same thing."

Barrasso also said he and other Senate Republicans recently huddled with Trump to discuss using the nation's oil and gas reserves as a political strength and found the president-elect "gets it."

Proponents of LNG exports are hoping an energy reform bill with provisions that put a deadline on the Energy Department's LNG export reviews will be signed into law. Barrasso said he's eyeing the National Defense Authorization Act as a vehicle for that provision if the energy bill stalls but added that he's unsure about the fate of the defense bill.

"I think it's better on the energy [bill] because I know that's something the president will sign," he said. "When you take a look at the National Defense Authorization Act, presidents threaten vetoes for a number of different reasons unrelated to this component."

Also anxious to see efforts continue are members of LNG Allies, a nonprofit research and advocacy organization that includes ambassadors from Poland, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia. The group penned a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) expressing support for language in both the House and Senate bills to put a deadline on DOE export reviews (E&E Daily, Nov. 15).

Republican Rep. Bill Johnson of Ohio said LNG exports fit squarely into Trump's plan to boost the economy and could create "tens of thousands of jobs" and "billions" in revenue. Johnson also said a Trump administration could go much further than simply fast-tracking energy exports.

Polish Ambassador Maciej Pisarski agreed that the best position for Trump when speaking with Russia is one of strength and unlocking U.S. exports has to do with allowing market forces to work.

Zsolt Hetesy, deputy chief of mission for Hungary, said U.S. gas exports are already pushing down gas prices abroad and diverting LNG cargoes destined for America, all of which is boosting the international market.

"Basically, major gas exports are forced to offer more substantial price discounts," he said.

## DAKOTA ACCESS

### Lawmakers push Obama; pipeline company demands court action

Cecelia Smith-Schoenwalder, E&E News reporter

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Lawmakers today urged President Obama to take action to de-escalate tensions and protests related to the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Their request came less than 24 hours after the Army Corps of Engineers announced that further consultation with the Standing Rock Sioux was necessary. The tribe has been strongly opposed to the project.

In the letter, 23 Democrats urged the president to deny an easement for the pipeline and take steps to protect the civil liberties and rights of environmental protestors and journalists.

"Our founding ideals include the right to peaceful assembly and the freedom of the press, and we as a nation deserve better than what is happening around the Dakota Access Pipeline," they wrote in a [letter](#).

Lawmakers cited incoming President-elect Donald Trump as a concern if the current administration did not resolve the issue during its short time left in office.

#### Advertisement

"In the coming months, President-elect Trump — who has personally invested in this pipeline company — will undoubtedly signal an oil and gas industry takeover of the White House," Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) said in a statement.

"This will be one of the many battles we must fight and we must stand together to protect the environment, sacred tribal lands, freedom of the press, and the right to peaceful assembly," he said.

Just yesterday, the Army Corps announced it could not provide a final decision on the pipeline without additional talks with tribal representatives ([EnergyWire](#), Nov. 15).

Through continued discussions with the Standing Rock Sioux, the Army Corps hopes to determine whether to grant an easement necessary for the project to cross Lake Oahe, a section of the Missouri River near the reservation — drawing ire from project backers who hoped to be finished with construction by now.

### Company makes court plea

Pipeline builder Energy Transfer Partners LP went on the offensive last night with legal filings urging the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to rule that the Army Corps already effectively granted the easement when it found "no significant impact" over the summer.

Energy Transfer and its partner Sunoco Logistics Partners LP are urging the court to issue a legal declaration that the companies have the final, legal right of way to complete construction.

"Dakota Access Pipeline has waited long enough to complete this pipeline," Energy Transfer CEO Kelcy Warren said in a statement.

"Dakota Access Pipeline has been granted every permit, approval, certificate, and right-of-way needed for the pipeline's construction," said Warren. "It is time for the Courts to end this political interference and remove whatever legal cloud that may exist over the right-of-way beneath federal land at Lake Oahe."

## **U.N. concerns**

Before the lawmakers released their letter, a United Nations expert accused security forces in the United States of using excessive force to stop the protests.

Protesters say they have faced mace, bean-bag rounds and rubber bullets while trying to block development of the project, which they say could pollute water sources and disrupt sacred land (*EnergyWire*, Oct. 28).

They have suffered "inhuman and degrading conditions in detention," according to Maina Kiai, the U.N. special rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. He said security forces have been using increasingly militarized responses to protests over the past two weeks.

"This is a troubling response to people who are taking action to protect natural resources and ancestral territory in the face of profit-seeking activity," Kiai said in a statement.

Nationwide protests are planned today, with environmental and tribal leaders attending a sit-in at Army Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C., this afternoon.

*Reporter Ellen M. Gilmer contributed.*

## **NATIONAL PARKS**

### **Trump Jr. sees boosted role for corporate sponsorships**

Corbin Hiar, E&E News reporter

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Remarks by Donald Trump Jr. in support of a larger role for businesses in national parks have taken on new significance in the wake of his father's surprise presidential victory.

Trump Jr. — a key adviser to President-elect Donald Trump on public lands — said at a June event in Fort Collins, Colo., that "there are ways you can do [corporate sponsorship] in a way that is beneficial" to the management and budgets of the National Park Service.

At the same Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership event, Trump Jr. expressed an affinity for the backcountry and described national parks as being "a little bit too 'tourist-ized' for myself," according to *High Country News*, which first reported on the sportsmen's gathering.

## **CONTINUING COVERAGE**

# POWER SHIFT

E&E News' ongoing coverage of the new administration and the changes taking place on Capitol Hill. [Click here](#) to view the continuing coverage.

The comments from Trump Jr. could suggest that a Trump administration would seek to uphold and potentially expand on the Park Service's controversial philanthropy proposal, park observers said. The president-elect's son is an avid sportsman and has expressed interest in leading the Interior Department, of which the service is a part ([Greenwire](#), Nov. 11).

The draft order, unveiled by NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis earlier this year, would expand opportunities for accepting donations from corporations and wealthy patrons and honoring major contributors. Such changes, Jarvis said, are necessary to attract philanthropic dollars in an increasingly competitive charitable market ([Greenwire](#), March 30).

Although the proposal has attracted significant criticism from anti-corporate campaigners and some environmental watchdogs, the Park Service is expected to finalize it before the end of the Obama administration.

It is unclear at the moment how significant the comments from Trump Jr. are to the incoming administration's public lands policies.

The only natural resources the president-elect frequently mentioned on the campaign trail were fossil fuels, the production of which he aims to increase.

## Reducing backlog?

National parks supporters have expressed hope that Trump's focus on improving American infrastructure could help reduce the Park Service's \$12 billion deferred maintenance backlog, nearly half of which is transportation-related ([Greenwire](#), Nov. 9).

But the president-elect hasn't specifically said what infrastructure he'd like to repair.

Trump's two-page plan for his first 100 days in office, for example, only pledges to "cancel billions in payments to U.N. climate change programs and use the money to fix America's water and environmental infrastructure." Later in the "[Contract With the America Voter](#)," Trump promises to introduce a revenue-neutral energy and infrastructure bill that would leverage "public-private partnerships, and private investments through tax incentives, to spur \$1 trillion in infrastructure investment over ten years."

Similarly, the brief [infrastructure policy section](#) of Trump's transition website just says his administration will seek "to invest \$550 billion to ensure we can export our goods and move our people faster and safer." It also promises to "harness technology and make smarter decisions on how we build and utilize our infrastructure."

## ENDANGERED SPECIES

### Florida panther that crossed river raises recovery hopes

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

A female panther crossed the Caloosahatchee River in Florida this year for the first time in four decades, which conservationists say is an important success for the species.

The population of panthers, which live mostly south of the river, has been dying in record numbers in recent years. But if the female is able to mate with males who regularly cross the river, she could help start a new population north of the Caloosahatchee.

"This is a big deal for panther conservation," said Kipp Frohlich of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. "An expansion of the panther's breeding range should improve the prospects for recovery."

Panthers were once seen across the state, but by 1990 the population had dwindled to 46 after years of inbreeding. To combat the shrinkage, biologists brought in nine female Texas cougars, and numbers swelled to between 100 and 180. But the enlarged population put pressure on territory, and males have begun dying more frequently.

Larry Williams, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Florida supervisor, said the agency has been working with landowners to secure wildlife corridors for panthers to travel.

"While we do not know if this female used these tracts of land, we do know that securing lands that facilitate the natural expansion of the panther population are critical to achieving full recovery," Williams said (Jenny Staletovich, *Miami Herald*, Nov. 14). — **SM**

## FISHERIES

### Activists push for ban on live seafood at restaurants

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Animal rights activists are calling for restaurants to stop serving live seafood.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals released a video today of writhing octopus tentacles and twitching shrimp heads served at Korean restaurants in Los Angeles and New York.

The group wants legislators to ban the practice but says it is open to other approaches as well.

"We're taking no other options off the table until live animals themselves are taken off the table," said PETA spokesman Ben Williamson.

Live slaughter falls in a loophole in California law, according to PETA: Animals slaughtered for eating are not covered in animal cruelty laws, and food regulations allow restaurants to keep live seafood.

Several experts say the animals commonly consumed as live seafood can feel pain.

"In my professional opinion, an octopus whose arms are cut off is likely experiencing pain and suffering," said Jennifer Mather of the University of Lethbridge. "This suffering is almost certainly prolonged when the animal is deliberately kept alive until all of the arms have been ordered."

Decapods such as prawns, shrimp and lobster "show a high motivation to escape noxious stimuli,

respond in ways that are conclusively not mere reflexes, have strong physiological stress responses, show symptoms of anxiety after negative treatments, and have long-term memory of negative experiences," said Robert Elwood of Queen's University in Belfast (Geoffrey Mohan, [Los Angeles Times](#), Nov. 14). — **SM**

## **WILDFIRES**

### **Ariz. ranchers faced with blazes along the border**

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Cattle ranchers in the Sonoran Desert in Arizona are used to dealing with natural forest fires. But they face another challenge in addition to the recent drought: arson fires set as diversions by smugglers or accidentally by undocumented people crossing the border.

A 2011 study by the Government Accountability Office found that 86 percent of the fires in Arizona's border region were started by humans.

The study found that of the 77 investigated fires, 39 percent were likely started by border crossers.

And rancher Dan Bell reports that smugglers will light fires on his land and walk along them to avoid Border Patrol agents. The practice destroys thousands of acres of grazing space every year.

"We've had to reduce the herd numbers because we just don't have the feed out there," Bell said (Sydney Richardson, [Arizona Sonora News](#), Nov. 4). — **NB**

## **WILDLIFE**

### **Mont. man admits to killing bison, possessing eagle carcass**

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

A member of the Crow tribe from Pryor, Mont., pleaded guilty yesterday to federal charges that he illegally shot and butchered a bison and illegally possessed a bald eagle carcass.

Tyler Dale Medicine Horse Sr. agreed to pay \$8,000 in restitution to the bison's owners, Trisha and Brandon Siemion, as part of a plea deal that reduced felony charges to misdemeanors.

Medicine Horse told Fish and Wildlife Service agents that he found the bald eagle on the side of a road and admitted to shooting a bison near a ranch.

Medicine Horse faces a maximum of one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine. He will be sentenced March 8 (Clair Johnson, [Billings Gazette](#), Nov. 14). — **SM**

## **CARBON CAPTURE**

### **Reports urge more CCS to avoid dangerous warming**

[Christa Marshall](#), E&E News reporter

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Two reports are warning today that the world is wildly off course in deploying carbon capture and sequestration technology needed to avoid catastrophic climate change.

The International Energy Agency reports that the number of planned or operational large CCS projects has fallen by half in the past six years, even though carbon capture technology should provide at least 12 percent of emission reductions through midcentury to avoid dangerous warming.

The Global CCS Institute, which supports the technology, also finds that the amount of captured and stored CO<sub>2</sub> needs to expand 100 times by 2040 to meet global climate targets.

"Deployment of CCS will not be optional in implementing the Paris Agreement," said Fatih Birol, the executive director of the IEA. "Faster deployment of CCS, particularly in industry, must be an integral part of a strengthened climate response."

According to IEA, decarbonizing the power sector will be at least \$3.5 trillion more expensive through midcentury without CCS technology.

The Australia-based Global CCS Institute documented 38 large-scale CCS projects either operating, under construction or in the planning stage this year. That is down from more than 70 projects five years ago.

The drop is due in part to a series of proposed project cancellations in the past five years because of financing challenges. Funding dried up after cash infusions like President Obama's 2009 Recovery Act. "Momentum was not maintained as early CCS deployment proved to be more complex, expensive and politically challenging," the IEA report says.

A collapse in oil prices also made the business case challenging, as many potential CCS projects aimed to link with enhanced oil recovery to offset CCS costs.

Regardless, two major U.S. carbon capture projects on large coal plants are expected to come online this year — Southern Co.'s Kemper County energy facility in Mississippi and NRG Energy's Petra Nova project in Texas. They both are expected to use enhanced oil recovery in combination with CO<sub>2</sub> capture on coal.

Additionally, the world's first large-scale attempt to demonstrate "bioenergy with carbon capture and storage," or BECCS, is slated to be operational at an Illinois ethanol plant in 2017. That project is considered significant because it could in theory lead to negative emissions, and could test how large amounts of carbon dioxide behave in rock formations in the Illinois basin (*ClimateWire*, Sept. 12, 2011).

The institute also noted the launch of the world's first large-scale initiative in the Middle East to capture CO<sub>2</sub> at scale from a steel plant. The project moved forward partly out of Abu Dhabi's interest to bolster its sustainability goals. Japan also began CO<sub>2</sub> injection from a hydrogen production plant.

To move the technology forward, CCS advocates are calling for more "policy parity" with renewables. According to the institute, CCS has received a small fraction of the approximately \$2.5 trillion invested in clean energy technologies in the past decade.

Other ideas floated in the reports include creating "strategic" CCS hubs where smaller emitters share CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure.

President-elect Donald Trump mentioned "clean coal" multiple times during his campaign, but it remains

uncertain what he would do with CCS policy.

In the United States, supporters in Congress are pushing for expanded tax credits for CO2 storage via bills in both the House and Senate. This month, supporters sent a letter to the Trump campaign warning that existing tax credits are facing a cap and not providing enough of an incentive ([Greenwire](#), Nov. 2).

However, other groups say federal money would be better spent on low-carbon technologies like renewables and energy storage that don't rely on burning fossil fuels. The many cancellations of proposed CCS projects, and the cost of ones being built, signal that there are better options, they say.

In a separate report today, Friends of the Earth and Taxpayers for Common Sense say that expanded tax credits could lead to millions of dollars in new financial support for the Kemper energy facility in Mississippi. The costs of the coal plant, which is aiming to capture 65 percent of its emissions when it comes online, ballooned by more than \$2 billion over the past several years.

The groups analyzed three pending congressional bills and assessed how much CO2 the Kemper plant is expected to sequester. Bills on the table possibly could prompt \$695 million to \$4.5 billion in new financial support for Kemper, assuming the facility ends up being counted as "new" under congressional language.

"Squandering more tax dollars on carbon capture for coal plants like Kemper is just throwing good money after bad," said Autumn Hanna, senior program director at Taxpayers for Common Sense.

[Click here](#) for the IEA report.

[Click here](#) for the Global CCS Institute report.

[Click here](#) for the Friends of the Earth and Taxpayers for Common Sense report.

## PARIS AGREEMENT

### French leader talks tough on U.S. emissions commitments

Jean Chemnick, E&E News reporter

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

MARRAKECH, Morocco — French President François Hollande took on U.S. President-elect Donald Trump today, telling a gathering of world leaders that he would "demand" that Trump honor U.S. commitments to the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Speaking at the opening ceremony for high-level climate talks beginning today in this imperial desert city, Hollande told ministers and climate negotiators that France would lead a "dialogue" to convince Trump not to abandon Paris.

"The United States, the largest economic power in the world and the second-largest greenhouse gas emitter, must respect the commitments it has undertaken," said Holland. "It's not only their duty; it's in their interest, as well."

Trump has said for months that he would "cancel" or at least "renegotiate" the agreement nearly 200 countries reached in December outside the French capital. The United States formally became a party to the deal in September, and 109 countries have now joined.



But Trump's transition team is weighing how to disentangle the United States from the deal in less than the four years specified by its text, including the possibility of leaving the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. That treaty was brokered during President George H.W. Bush's term and ratified by the Senate, and virtually every nation on earth belongs to it.

Hollande, for his part, who might be running for re-election early next year, prompting observers to suggest that he was aiming at a domestic audience when he promised to approach Trump with "openness, with respect, but also with demands and determination."

He warned that the United States would be vulnerable to climate change, as well, and that "inaction would be disastrous for the world, it would be for future generations, and it would be disastrous for peace." He called the deal brokered last year "irreversible" and said he would not be the only French politician with sharp words for Trump if he makes good on his pledge to withdraw the United States from Paris.

Foreign Minister Ségolène Royal has said the move would be "catastrophic," while former President Nicolas Sarkozy, who is running again for the job, has threatened to introduce border tariffs on U.S. products if the Trump administration abandons environmental protections.

Sarkozy floated the same idea 10 years ago for countries that flout the Kyoto Protocol, intending the tariffs as an enforcement measure against China. But the idea never gained legs, and E.U. Climate Action and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete yesterday seemed to dismiss the idea that the bloc would take it up now.

"At the moment, we are sending the Americans the message that it's in the interests of the U.S. to deliver clean energy policies and ambitious climate change policies," he told reporters.

British economist Nicholas Stern was quoted today in the *Financial Times* as saying a border tariff could be justified "in cases where companies are being heavily subsidized by their country's government."

"Allowing damaging activities, such as air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions, to take place at zero cost is clearly an implicit subsidy," he said.

## PARIS AGREEMENT

### Cities tout progress, vow to stay on track

Hannah Hess, E&E News reporter

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

In the wake of Donald Trump's election as president last week, San Diego officials are trumpeting their city's success in meeting climate change goals.

A report released Thursday by Chief Sustainability Officer Cody Hooven and Mayor Kevin Faulconer (R) shows a 17 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions since 2010, putting San Diego ahead of schedule to meet its sustainability goals.

"I think there's a lot of uncertainty and disappointment in the networks that I'm part of, but also we have been moving forward anyway regardless of the federal [government] — that's not going to go away," Hooven said yesterday.

Yesterday, 7,100 cities from around the world announced the collective impact of their efforts to help

meet the goals of the Paris climate agreement in a [report](#) stressing the importance of access to climate finance at the city level. The report was released during international climate negotiations in Morocco.

Mayors made many green promises ahead of the U.N. climate conference in Paris late last year, which former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg yesterday said "gave cities a voice in international climate talks for the first time, and that was a big reason for the summit's success."

Bloomberg, who is now the U.N. secretary-general's special envoy for cities and climate change, said this week's conference in Marrakech "is a chance to build on that momentum and give cities resources to speed their work."

Cities account for more than 70 percent of global energy-related greenhouse gas emissions, according to the report, and with urbanization on the rise, it is projected that nearly 66 percent of the world's population will live in cities by 2050. The cities of the coalition created by the Compact of Mayors and the E.U. Covenant of Mayors are forming a Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy to track their progress.

Today, mayors from 10 U.S. cities announced they are joining the City Energy Project, an effort to reduce energy consumption from their buildings.

A joint project by the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Institute for Market Transformation, the effort launched in 2014 with funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Kresge Foundation ([E&ENews PM](#), Jan. 29, 2014).

St. Louis, New Orleans, Pittsburgh and Florida's Miami-Dade County are among the localities that joined the energy efficiency pledge, which already includes Los Angeles, Orlando, Philadelphia, Houston and Boston. To date, more than 1,600 buildings representing over 270 million square feet of space have participated in project-supported programs encouraging energy efficiency improvements.

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed said his city's work with the project since 2014 has allowed Atlanta to expand its commitment to reducing energy and water use citywide, and to continue to build on those efforts "across our region as a whole."

One risk of the groundswell of city commitments: The credibility of the pledges could be called into question without effective metrics to measure progress.

A study published last year in *Nature Climate Change* found that the voluntary pledges cities and other "non-state" actors make play a significant role in expectations for global climate agreements like the Paris deal, but there are almost no rules or criteria to measure their efforts ([ClimateWire](#), May 22, 2015).

Hooven suggested mayors are held accountable by the people they represent more than federal elected officials, who may be more removed from the effects of climate change.

"They see floods. They have to deal with drought. They have to deal with wildfires," Hooven said. Mayors are "eye to eye with their constituents a little more."

## **MINING**

### **Equipment makers look forward to Trump presidency**

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Donald Trump's campaign promises to lift federal environmental regulations on oil, gas and mining have encouraged mining equipment manufacturers.

Ted Doheny, president and CEO of manufacturer Joy Global Inc., said he hopes having fewer regulations will be a boon for U.S. mining.

"It starts with setting the vision, the strategies and the direction. It's pointing to positive areas, I believe, for the mining industry and for business in general," he said.

U.S. coal production has dropped in recent years, leaving the mining equipment industry in a five-year downturn.

Joy Global, based in Milwaukee, has laid off hundreds of workers in recent years. The job losses at Caterpillar Inc., another mining equipment giant, have reached the thousands worldwide.

Doheny expects the industry to begin an upswing as commodity prices creep up and factories need more steel and other raw materials. For now, though, the industry remains in a slump.

But miners see the president-elect as an ally if he backs up his campaign promises, especially the \$1 trillion infrastructure investment promised during the campaign.

"We feel really good about that part. I think the harder part now is getting it on the agenda with Congress," said Dennis Slater, president of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, a Milwaukee-based trade group (Rick Barrett, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Nov. 14). — **NB**

## CHINA

### 'World's saddest' polar bear temporarily moved

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

A polar bear living in a Chinese mall deemed the "world's saddest" will be getting a temporary break from its enclosure in an indoor aquarium.

The polar bear, called Pizza, will be moved while his enclosure in the Grandview Mall in Guangzhou, China, is "optimized and upgraded," according to the Grandview Polar Sea World.

Pizza's living arrangements have outraged animal activists in the past (*Greenwire*, Oct. 27).

Although Chinese animal welfare groups say this change is welcome, they still want Pizza permanently moved.

"Temporary is not good enough," said Qin Xiaona of the Capital Animal Welfare Association. "Now we hope that Grandview will learn from this episode and move Pizza permanently so that he never again has to endure the dreadful life in a shopping mall."

The aquarium's notice did not specify where Pizza would be going or when he would come back (Didi Tatlow, *New York Times*, Nov. 14). — **CS**

**1.FOSSIL FUELS:****Tribes divided over unlocking energy wealth**

There is black gold beneath the rugged hills of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in southern Montana: millions of tons of coal that remains untouched. Despite poverty and unemployment hovering around 45 percent, the Northern Cheyenne have said no to developing their coal resources from the time they moved to the Powder River Basin in 1884 until today.

## TOP STORIES

**2.UNITED NATIONS:****How Trump could put U.S. on par with North Korea on climate****3.METHANE:****Obama oil and gas regs could be on the chopping block under Trump****4.PARIS AGREEMENT:****Kerry's U.N. swan song to be overshadowed by Trump**

## BUSINESS

**5.AUTOS:****Calif. to deploy thousands of EV charging ports****6.FINANCE:****Future of SEC's climate risk disclosure in doubt****7.TECHNOLOGY:****Carbon capture still viable under Trump, experts say**

## STATES

**8.UTILITIES:****State officials see infrastructure as potential bright spot****9.ADAPTATION:****D.C. plans for flooding as climate warms****10.FLORIDA:****High tide, flood warning after supermoon**

## INTERNATIONAL

**11.ADVOCACY:****Swimmers cross Dead Sea to raise awareness****12.SPECIES:****Puffin deaths linked to soaring temperatures****13.WILDLIFE:****Climate change killing underwater kelp forests**

**1.POLITICS:****Bill to boost Exelon's dying nuclear plants proposes vast rewrite of Ill. law**

The Illinois Legislature's six-day veto session opened yesterday with the thud of a sprawling 446-page bill that represents the most significant rewrite of state energy law in almost a decade.

## TOP STORIES

**2.TECHNOLOGY:****Utilities try new role as venture capitalists****3.ELECTRICITY:****Trump's coal dreamscape unlikely to upend 'unmistakable' trends**

## ELECTRICITY

**4.RENEWABLES:****French oil giant Total throws a bone to its solar unit****5.UTILITIES:****State officials see infrastructure as potential bright spot****6.PEOPLE:****PG&E replaces outgoing CEO****7.TECHNOLOGY:****GE signs large power-plant software deal with Exelon****8.NUCLEAR:****Trump advisers plan to revive Nev. waste dump**

## OIL AND GAS

**9.LAW:****Enviros chart defense of BLM methane rule****10.DISASTERS:****Alberta took \$5.3B hit from wildfires in oil sands region****11.METHANE:****EDF tracks pipeline leaks in energy capital of the East****12.OIL:****Permian Basin field holds 'jaw dropping' amount of oil — report****13.MARKETS:****Oil prices rise on renewed hopes of OPEC talks****14.GASOLINE:****U.S. refineries hurt by loss of access to cheap crude**

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